

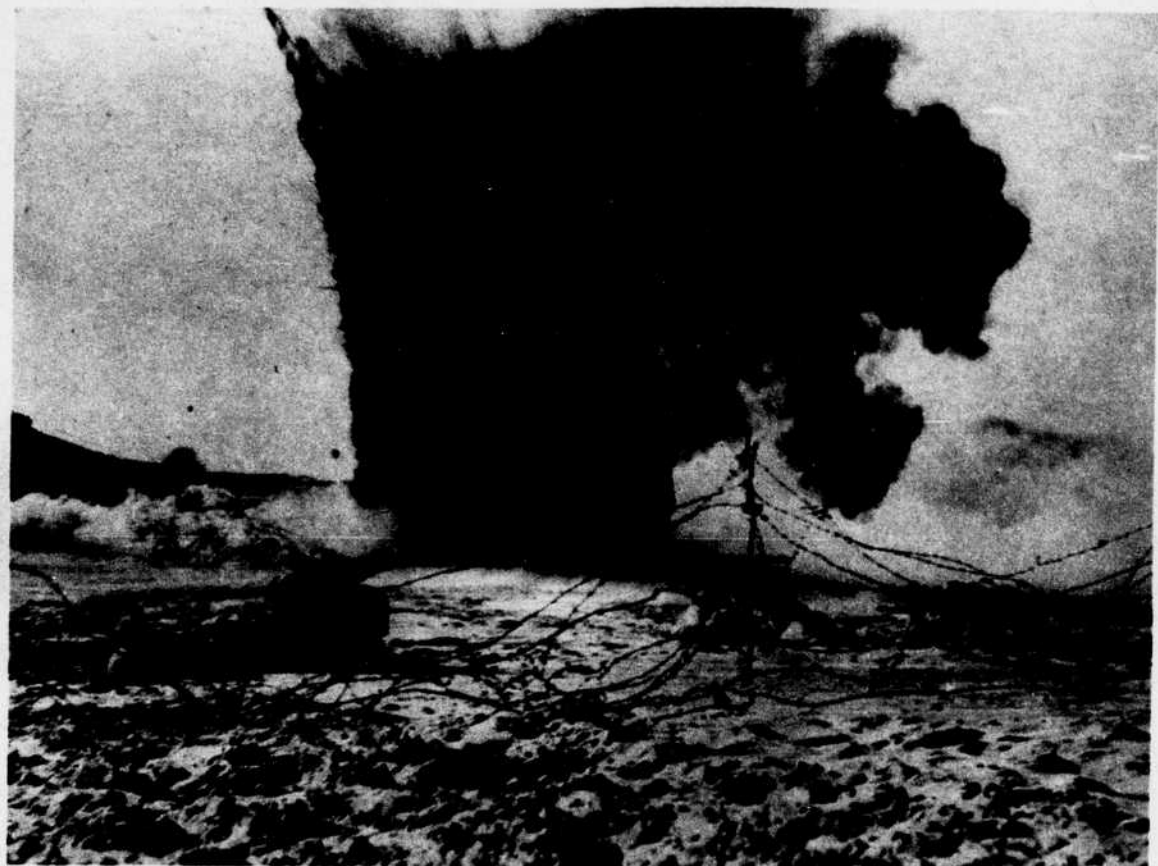
'First Thousand Yards Are the Toughest'



MULTIPLY this scene a good many thousand times in number of men and landing craft and you have some picture of D-day along the invasion coasts of Europe. A great American Army has been drilled and re-drilled in amphibious invasion and here's the first stage—Yanks hitting a stretch of English beach from assault craft, flattening out and inching their way in to establish a beachhead. From their tutor on this drill ground, Col. Paul W. Thompson, invasion expert, every Yank hears: "The first 1,000 yards are the toughest." And that doesn't mean the thousands to follow are soft!



The maneuver terrain is tough—and up from the beach the Yanks charge a fortified hill, shielded from flanking fire by a smoke screen.



There's barbed wire to smash through. And then the Yanks hit the sand to escape the blast from a planted explosive. Realism lacks only the rain of steel!

→ The scene shifts here to the invasion role of airborne forces—and the problem of their supply. Training for it, these men push food and ammunition packs from a C-47 cargo plane, to float down under parachutes.



Planes and parachutes fill the sky over the English countryside during this drill in airborne supply. As planes reach the "drop zone" the chute packs are pushed out the plane door at 15-second intervals.

Signal Corps Photos.



From the drop zone airborne supplies are hauled by jeeps and trailers to supply dumps in their waterproof containers. The vehicles have "glided in" with the airborne forces.